

- (C) collecting the gas from which the condensables have been removed, characterized in that the supersonic inertia separator is located in the vicinity of the wellhead of a natural gas production well for the separation of condensables from the natural gas stream produced through said well.

SubB1
2. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step B~~ⁱⁿ a swirling motion is induced to the supersonic stream of fluid thereby causing the condensables to flow to a radially outer section of a collecting zone in the stream, followed by the subsonic or supersonic extraction of the condensables into an outlet stream from the radially outer section of the collecting zone.

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3. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the swirling motion is imparted by a wing placed in the supersonic flow region.

4. (Once Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of: creating a shock wave in the stream that is upstream of the collecting zone and downstream of the location where the swirling motion is imparted.

5. (Once Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the shock wave is created by inducing the stream of fluid to flow through a diffuser.

6. (Once Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding a hydrate inhibition component to the outlet stream extracted from the radially outer section of the collecting zone. JJ

7. (Once Amended) A device for removing condensables from natural gas according to the method of claim 1, the device comprising:

an acceleration section wherein gas is accelerated to a supersonic velocity;
a swirl imparting section that imparts a swirling motion to the gas;
a collection zone from which a gas stream containing reduced content of condensables is removed; and

a radially outer section of the collecting zone with a radially outer section from which the condensables can be collected, characterized in that the device is located in the vicinity of the wellhead of a natural gas production well and is designed for the separation of condensables from a natural gas stream produced through said well.

8. (Once Amended) The device of claim 7 further comprising a shock wave initiator downstream of the swirl imparting section.

SubB2 9. (Once Amended) The device of claim 8 wherein the shock wave initiator is a diffuser, located so that the shock wave is upstream the collecting zone.

AI 10. (Once Amended) The device of claim 7, wherein the acceleration section comprises a Laval-type inlet of the conduit, and wherein the smallest cross-sectional flow area of the diffuser is larger than the smallest cross-sectional flow area of the Laval-type inlet, and wherein the swirl imparting section that imparts a swirling motion to the stream comprises a wing device.

11. (Once Amended) A wellhead assembly comprising a device as claimed in claim 7, downstream of the wellhead choke.) mark 301 452

12. (Once Amended) A wellhead assembly as claimed in claim 11, comprising a sub-sea wellhead.

SubB3 13. (Once Amended) The device of claim 7, wherein the radially outer section of the collecting zone debouches into an annular first outlet for collecting a condensables enriched fluid stream and a central section of the collecting zone debouches into a tubular second outlet for collecting a condensables depleted fluid stream, characterized in that the tubular second outlet is formed by a substantially straight tubular which remains substantially co-axial to the annular first outlet along at least a substantial portion of its length. 207 Refer

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